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behind the age in this respect—but our insane asylums are crowded with intensely earnest people. Danton and his associates were earnest—but so were the Chicago Anarchists. In fact, earnestness, if not linked with soberness of thought, word, and deed, is little better than insanity; and there are scenes in the history of Danton's time that are the very insanity of earnestness. It is a very fortunate trait in the Anglo-Saxon character to admire pluck, enterprise, and energy, but to distrust earnestness run wild into enthusiasm.

It is the fashion also to leave out of consideration the deep religious sentiments which prevailed at the time of our revolution; yet all history teaches that the religious idea—no matter whether Christian or Pagan, so long as it be live—is one of the strongest binding social forces in existence. Yet Mr. Gronlund leaves entirely out of consideration the religious factor of the French Revolution. The word does not even occur in the excellent index that completes his book; it is as absent from the book as the thing was from the French Revolutionists.

Yet, notwithstanding this fault-finding, we think "*Ça Ira*" to be a book well worth a perusal. The French Revolution has been so often presented to us in a series of kaleidoscopic pictures that it is both interesting and instructive to meet a philosophic study of it; and the style of composition and method of arrangement make Mr. Gronlund's book very readable.

## VIII.

### A VOYAGE TO THE CARIBBEES.

MR. PATON tells the story of his five or six weeks' voyage among the Caribbean islands very pleasantly,\* and contrives to weave in with his graphic, descriptive sketches many facts concerning the history, population, trade, and social condition of the places he visited in the course of his tour in this interesting region. The book is therefore not only interesting but valuable. Part of it is a reprint of letters furnished to a New York daily newspaper, but a large portion of it is here published for the first time, and this latter portion, it is fair to presume, is mainly due to enlargements and additions made after a careful study of historical and official records. The voyage was made in a trading steamship, the "*Barraconta*," carrying also a few passengers, and making many stoppages at different ports, discharging and receiving cargo. A few days at most, and often but a few hours, could be given to each island visited, but these were used to the best advantage, and the result is exceedingly creditable to the author's powers of observation and rapid generalization. For any one proposing to make a trip to the region in question, or to any portion of it, whether for health, pleasure, or business, the book will prove a welcome and useful companion and guide. One of the strongest impressions produced on the author by this tour was the gradual disappearance of white people and their descendants from these tropical lands and the rapid increase of the blacks and Hindoo coolies. "In the future, it may be in the near future,—certainly at some time more or less remote,—the Africans, who were brought unwilling captives into this land of bondage, and the Hindoos, who owe their exportation from the land of their fathers to the imagined necessity for cheaper instead of more intelligent labor, will find themselves left in possession of regions no longer profitably to be cultivated." Mr. Paton thinks that this subject may well engage the attention of ethnologists and statesmen, and he points signifi-

\*"*Down the Islands; A Voyage to the Caribbees.*" By William Agnew Paton. With illustrations from drawings by M. J. Burns. Charles Scribner's Sons.

cantly to Hayti as a warning. The hope of the future lies in two directions: the turning again of the tide of white immigration and occupation toward these islands and the elevation of the black races.

## IX.

## GLIMPSE AT A NEIGHBORING REPUBLIC.

THE region in which the civilization of our country had its beginnings should be a point of especial interest to Americans. We travel North, South, East, and West, and send explorers to Arctic colds and Afric heats, while down at our feet, securely hemmed in by the Caribbean Sea and the calm Pacific, nestles a little country, seldom visited or written about by our countrymen, as rich in natural wealth and beauty as any on the earth's surface. In the list of over two hundred books or publications used for reference by the author of this charming new work on Guatemala,\* by far the larger part are written in the Spanish language, and, with few exceptions, are not of recent date. Various enterprises have, of late, awakened interest in this hitherto strange country, and we know of no publication so accurate, comprehensive, and available for the expectant traveler, or so full of interest to the lover of books of travels, as this now before us, and we promise the reader that he will not find a dull page from preface to appendix.

The opening chapters briefly indicate the extent, geographical features, geological formation, agricultural and mineral wealth, government, and educational interests of the five independent republics which constitute Central America, formerly known as Guatemala. These States cover an area of about one hundred and seventy thousand square miles, and have a population of two and a half millions. Gold, silver, copper, iron, and lead are found, and in some portions of the country are very abundant. The climate is generally healthful, though warm. "We often hear of the extreme unhealthfulness of the tropics; but is it generally known that more persons die of consumption in Massachusetts than of the most dreaded diseases in Central America? The last time an official census was taken, Livingstone had a population of one thousand in round numbers, and the deaths of the year numbered seven,—one a centenarian, and two youths who fell from cocoa-nut trees and broke their necks; while in Boston the rate for July, 1885, was 28.1 per thousand."

In somewhat irregular and unsystematic fashion, but in the vivid, entertaining style which characterizes Stanley and Rider Haggard, Mr. Brigham takes his readers on a journey through the little republic of Guatemala proper, from the free port of Livingstone on the Atlantic coast, to Guatemala, the capital city, thence by southerly course to Azacualpa, thence northerly through the mountains to Esquipulas, Quirigua, and back home again to Livingstone.

Of the rich soil of Livingstone, he tells us that no plow is needed to prepare it for sowing, and corn planted on Thursday has attained a growth of four inches by the Monday following. Crops often mature in ninety days, and three crops are often harvested in a year. Bananas and plantains, rice and sugar cane, grow abundantly, the latter yielding three tons of sugar per acre for twenty years without replanting. The farmer clears the land of forest in January and February; burns the felled trees in May, and in June his land is ready for planting. Livingstone is but eight days from New York, four from New Orleans, and one from Belize. Yet "the Northern farmer wears out his life in the consumptive fields of New England, where his crops grow only four months of the year, instead of settling here, where he can plant any day of the year, and reap a rich harvest in due

\* *Guatemala, the Land of the Quetzal.* A Sketch, by William T. Brigham. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.